

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for extending the courtesy of an interview with Applicant's representative on December 18, 2007. The above claims amendments are believed to be in accordance with the proposals discussed during the interview.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Jablonski ("On the Complementarity of Workflow Management and Business Process Modeling", hereinafter "Jablonski") in view of Schmidt et al. ("Extending Aspect-Oriented Programming In Order To Flexibly Support Workflows" – cited in the IDS filed March 28, 2007, hereinafter "Schmidt"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, all of the claim limitation must be taught or suggested by the prior art. The combination of Jablonski and Schmidt fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest "iii) searching said at least one generic process pattern for the predetermined pattern contained by the at least one process aspect, iv) on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one process aspect into the generic process pattern to generate a process plan, and v) outputting the generated process plan, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content in said step of inserting content are coded into said at least one process aspect," as required by independent claim

1 and its dependents. Similar (but necessarily identical) comments apply to independent claims 12 and 13 and their respective dependents.

Page 3 (top) of the Office Action admits that “Jablonski does not explicitly teach searching said at least one generic process plan for the predetermined pattern contained by at least one non-generic process element, on detection of the predetermined pattern, inserting content from said at least one non-generic process element into the generic process plan to generate a process plan, and outputting the generated process plan, wherein instructions for the insertion of said content in said step of inserting content are coded into said at least one non-generic process element.”

Applicant submits that Schmidt fails to resolve this admitted deficiency of Jablonski as applied to the presently claimed invention. In particular, page 5, lines 1-11 and Fig. 3 (specifically identified on pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action) of Schmidt clearly fails to teach or suggest searching a generic process pattern for a predetermined pattern contained by a process aspect and inserting content from the process aspect into the generic process pattern on detection of the predetermined pattern. Page 5, lines 1-11 and Fig. 3 of Schmidt also fails to teach or suggest instructions for the insertion of the content in the step of inserting content being coded into the process aspect.

Accordingly, even if the teachings of Jablonski and Schmidt were combined as proposed by the Office Action, the combination would not have been taught or suggested all the claim limitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Jablonski and Schmidt be withdrawn.

THOMPSON et al.
Application No. 09/739,317
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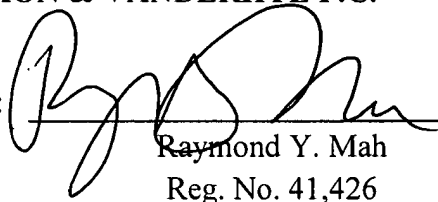
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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